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On the eve of Inquiry Commission's arrival in Dili Fear pervades as many people are rounded up

Many people are being arrested in Dili on the eve of the arrival there tomorrow of the 'National Inquiry Commission' [KPN] to begin its investigation. According to news from Dili today, Timorese on the streets are being rounded up and taken to police headquarters [*Polwil*]. It is widely feared these detainees will be required to testify to the Commission, whether or not they were present at the demonstration and massacre.

Far from carrying out an objective inquiry, the Commission, appointed by President Suharto last week, is a new source of fear among the already fear-stricken population of Dili. It is composed of senior political appointees in the interior, justice and foreign affairs ministries and the inspector-general of the armed forces. It is headed by (retired) Major General Jaelani, a Supreme Court judge. Timorese fear the very idea of having to testify before it.

Anyone who was actually present at the demonstration is afraid to go out for fear of being arrested and possibly killed, to eliminate genuine witnesses to the massacre. There were an estimated 3,000 people at the demonstration. Minus the many hundreds of dead and wounded, that leaves many survivors who can be harassed to give testimony or be eliminated. Armed forces commander-in-chief, General Try Sutrisno, told a parliamentary commission in Jakarta today that reports that the 12 November demonstration in Dili was peaceful were *"bullshit"* (he used the English word).

From Ermera, south of Dili, our source was told that anyone picked up without identity cards is required to do push-ups and stand in the glaring sun for a day. A woman on her way to town to give birth was ordered to return home.

The Portuguese-language Sao Jose school in Dili is still closed and many pupils of other schools, particularly boys, are afraid to go to school for fear of being picked up. The main Dili *mercado* (market) is almost deserted.

An announcement by the military commander, Brig.General R. Warouw that masked men who are much feared by the population when they parade the Dili streets at night, would be shot is treated with derision by the population. This is seen as an attempt to persuade Timorese to go out into the streets, so as to create an impression of normality as the Commission's investigations proceed.